

CANADIAN DIGEST

MOVING PICTURE

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

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We Serve

THE Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee presented a Rodeo Show at the Coliseum, Toronto, with Gene Autry as its featured star, November 14 - 15 - 16. The show was sponsored by the Canadian Picture Pioneers, and was presented for the benefit of the Lord Mayor of London's Fund for Distressed Air-Raid Victims.

The show raised five thousand pounds for the Lord Mayor's Fund and has been sent through special permission of the Foreign Exchange Board to the Lord Mayor of London.

The Motion Picture Industry as a whole must be gratified at this very tangible evidence of sympathetic support; and must be happy that it was inspired to consolidate its efforts for a co-operative war effort with the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

Canada is just getting into its war stride, we have passed the talking stage, we no longer wait for war news over the radio, or buy up every edition of the newspapers, because for better or for worse we are busy producing the goods, raising funds, proceeding orderly and consistently, rationally and relentlessly in our War work. We know that we are at war, not any other country, nor any other fellow, our country with ourselves in the front line doing the fighting.

In Great Britain they are doing what we are doing, under gun fire, therefore, we expect from ourselves and from each other that our effort shall exceed any war effort in connection with the production of necessities which is being put forward in Great Britain, in the countries of our Allies and our Friends.

McAree, of the Globe and Mail, has an interesting column headed, "Are the newspapers losing influence?" It starts off with, "Canadians who feel outraged when they read an article in some American newspaper or magazine which they think is anti-British might derive some consolation by reflecting that what newspapers say is apparently not as important as it used to be. This is a fair inference from the results of the recent American Presidential election, when most of the newspapers opposed Roosevelt."

The argument concerning the influence of newspapers is one worthy of more space and comment than we can editorially in this issue give to it. Our point in commenting on the column and bringing it to your attention is to point out the exception to the rule, thereby, not attempting by this exception to disagree with the columnist, but to state The Digest's case.

Ray Lewis formed, through the services of The Digest, being its editor and publisher, the Canadian Picture Pioneers. It was her idea backed by The Digest to have a Rodeo Show in aid of a War Fund. The Rodeo Show was postponed to permit the personal appearance of stars at motion picture theatres because it was decided that these stars would not fit in with a Rodeo Show. It was Ray Lewis who promoted and suggested the "Win The War" Committee and brought Independent Theatre Owners into the Committee for a combined War Effort.

The Digest promoted the co-operation of motion picture and affiliated interests as a permanent institution of service for War Work; and that each person, or theatre, on the "Win The War" Campaign should be made a member of the War Services Committee in recognition of past services and for future service.

The Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee, representing an united Motion Picture Industry with N. L. Nathanson, Chairman, and Ray Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer, will have everything The Digest can give it in its united effort to serve, for in serving you, WE SERVE.

—Editor.

Extra! THE NEW ESCAPE CLAUSE!

In the event that a picture should immediately establish itself as a sensational box-office attraction —

For instance, if it should be playing a 3rd week at Radio City Music Hall, N. Y. and continue to do outstanding business —

Likewise, if in all early bookings such as cities like Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit, Denver, Akron, Cleveland, Harrisburg, Reading, Memphis, etc., it should be an extraordinary commercial success —

In such an instance, it is agreed that the showmen of America should clear their booking schedules to permit long and successful extended engagements of such a picture.

Such a picture is M-G-M's "ESCAPE" starring NORMA SHEARER, ROBERT TAYLOR with Conrad Veidt, Nazimova, Felix Bressart, Albert Bassermann, Philip Dorn, Bonita Granville. A Mervyn LeRoy Production. Screen Play by Arch Oboler and Marguerite Roberts. Based on the novel "Escape" by Ethel Vance. Produced by Lawrence Weingarten. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy.

RAY PRESENTS



I HAVE a letter from Ernest Fredman, publisher of The Daily Film Renter which I believe contains items of news which you, my readers, will find most interesting.

The letter is dated October 29th and has just reached me. "My dear Ray Lewis, I don't know when I have read a letter with greater pleasure than I did yours of the 8th inst., which reached me this morning, and the splendid work that is being done by yourself, together with Mr. Nathanson and so many of my good friends in Canada, fills me with the greatest possible admiration, and makes one feel that here is practical assistance which is so much more worthy than the common place phrases of glib sympathy with which one is assailed at times such as these.

"As you will have seen from the copy of the 'Daily' which you will doubtless be getting, I featured your story on the Rodeo in yesterday's issue and have made reference to that and your other activities in my gossip column today. I can assure you the Motion Picture Industry in this country will be very grateful to you all for the splendid work that you are doing for the Red Cross and the 'Win The War' Stamp Drive, and all the charities that will share in the rewards of your enterprise.

"It just goes to show that the Motion Picture Industry in Canada is determined to play its part in smashing this war of aggression, and what is more, it abundantly shows that when a country is attacked, her children rally to her support.

"Yes, very definitely, it was nice getting your letter and I would like you to convey to all the Committee, our grateful thanks for what is being done and for their work in this connection.

"We are passing through difficult times, you don't need me to tell you that because you are an intelligent reader of the papers in any case, and I'm not going to attempt to give you a pen-picture of how London and the various cities are carrying on in these nightly raids of terrorism and destruction, because so many writers have done that, and done it much better than I could ever hope to do so. Except to try to give you a slight idea of how the Motion Picture Industry is carrying on in these troublesome times.

YOU don't need me to tell you that with aerial bombardment by day and by night, the life of London has changed completely, and now that the black-out commences in the neighborhood of six o'clock, and even earlier by the time you get this letter, business more or less finishes at five, that is, as far as the main office life in London is concerned, so as to enable the workers to get to their homes, have their meal, and prepare for the shelter, for, with monotonous precision, Goering's thugs descend on us night after night, in their attempt to spread destruction, and you will clearly see that the picture business as regards the evening, which of course, was the peak of the day, is almost completely eclipsed.

"A large number of cinemas are shut in London and the particularly bombed suburbs where the Nazis have concentrated in their blind and vicious bombing, but again, don't run away with the idea London is a desolated and evacuated city and that every cinema has gone dark, because it hasn't. There have been hits on many houses, but it is literally amazing how the desire for entertainment continues to attract the people and even in the West End, which is more or less

deserted at night, there were queues to see 'Foreign Correspondent' — I don't say there were queues at night, but there were morning and afternoon.

"Naturally the Motion Picture Industry here has suffered pretty badly, but there are always compensations, thank God, and the provinces, outside of those towns that are receiving particularly vicious treatment from the air raiders, are doing amazingly good business. Indeed, the returns are above normal, which as I think you will agree, is something to marvel at.

"Take a picture like 'Rebecca' this has done grand business in the country, but of course, it ran into a tragic release in London, but there is a silver lining to that cloud, because when this air terror passes — and we are assured it will pass because every day finds our Air Force getting on top of the Germans — then the picture will be re-released because, of course, thousands and thousands of people in London and the suburbs will want to see it. So other companies will take exactly the same course of action.

IT'S astonishing the way the Industry settles down to the new condition of things. London, by very nature of the air attacks, is now no longer the hub of the motion picture business in the sense that it is not returning anything in the way of grosses, but the provinces are doing very well, although exhibitors, and particularly independents, have been badly hit, they are standing their losses courageously and taking it on the chin in exactly the same way the British public are taking these nightly air raids. There is a cool determination to see this thing through because they know that eventually how long it may be no one knows — but in God's Good Time we shall come out on top and then, when we are freed from the menace of Nazi aggression, the Motion Picture Industry in this country will have such an impetus that it has never known in its existence.

"You can well imagine that it's difficult to carry on under these conditions, but Wardour Street has not panicked. Naturally some of the staffs are situated in the country because essential records are safer out of London. Theatre staffs are wonderful — they carry on with bombs bursting over their heads. There has not been so far — and I touch wood as I say this — any very bad case of a cinema being hit with a large audience. You know there has been certain damage done to a couple of West End Houses, but nothing that can't be put right within a very few weeks. We still make pictures — make no mistake about that. Production is still going on and even as I write I get particulars of new films that are being embarked upon. Denham, which has stood idle for some time, is now getting enquiries for floor space. Nothing will keep production down unless it is the requisitioning of studios, but bombs won't stop the wheels going round.

"I am not going to attempt to tell you all the intricate moves that are taking place, because the news affecting the film industry such as currency scheme news, that will probably be settled before you get this letter, and the many talks that are taking place in and out of the Film Council on the future of British Films, the credit bank, and the like, because again, this is all, most probably, going to be spilt long before you get this.

(Continued on Page 7)

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HALIFAX ALDERMAN ASKS FOR SUNDAY SHOWS

Halifax, N.S. — Alderman A. Kindley, member of the Municipal Council here, has introduced into the Council a resolution urging the opening of motion picture theatres on Sundays. This measure has been urged by newspapers and private individuals, who have written the press.

The reason for this break in Sunday observance, as it is regarded in the Maritimes, has been requested, is due to the presence of many members of the Forces at Halifax, and it is contemplated that the theatres will give the men away from home as they are, a place of amusement and entertainment, especially for the winter months.

Clair Hague Again President Canadian Picture Pioneers

H. ALEXANDER, VICE-PRES.—J. P. O'LOGHLIN, SEC'Y-TREAS.

Toronto, Ont. — A meeting of the newly-elected Board of Directors of the Canadian Picture Pioneers took place in the office of Mr. Clair Hague, on Wednesday, November 20th, at 11 A.M.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mr. Clair Hague (Universal), President; Mr. Harry Alexander (Lansdowne Theatre), Vice-President; and Mr. J. P. O'Loughlin (20th Century-Fox), Secretary-Treasurer. J. J. Fitzgibbons (Famous Players Corp.), was re-appointed Director of Public Relations.

The Special Committees were appointed as follows: Entertainment Committee: Mr. Syd Taube, Chairman; Mr. Ben Cronk, Mr. Tom Daley and Mr. Jack Arthur. Publicity Committee: Mr. Tom Daley, Chairman; Mr. Syd Taube, Mr. Archie Laurie and Mr. Leo Devaney. Membership Committee: Mr. Louis Rosenfeld, Chairman; Mr. Walter Kennedy, Mr. Leo Devaney and Mr. Clair Hague. General Committee: Mr. O. R. Hanson, Chairman; Mr. N. L. Nathanson, Mr. Haskell Masters, Mr. Ben Cronk, Mr. Jim O'Loughlin, Mr. Eddie English, Montreal, Mr. Sim Rost, Winnipeg, Mr. Bill Jones, Vancouver, and Mr. Archie Mason, Springhill, N.S.

NEW SOUND INSTALLED

Calgary, Alta. — Variety Theatre here has installed Mirrophonic sound equipment.

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES ASSOC. FORMED IN TORONTO

Toronto, Ont. — A new association has opened offices here in the Film Bldg., Consolidated Theatres Association, under the management of Mr. Harry Dahn, formerly with Famous Players Canadian Corporation, until his resignation some months' ago.

The Association has approximately 14 new members in Toronto to date, and plans to operate, handling bookings, newspaper and suburban newspaper advertising, publicity and all public relations of its member theatres.

According to a member spokesman of the organization, "The organization is a very healthy young baby. We have every chance of expanding and we have what we think is the nucleus of a fine organization. We are now looking forward to every co-operation from the Industry, many of whom have already been in contact with us".



The Canadian Picture Pioneers' Annual Meeting Banquet, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, November 13th: Reading from left to right around first table—Jake Smith, H. Rotenberg, Ambrose Theurer, Sam Glazer, Harry Allen, Sam Brint, Doug Cooper, Abe Wilkes, Harry Painter, Harry Law, Jim O'Loughlin, Jules Bernstein, Sam Sternberg, Ben Cronk, Bill Summerville, Sam Bloom, Harry Alexander, Harry Price, Jule Allen, Harrison Patte, Tom Daley, A. J. Mason, Clarence Robson, F. G. Spencer and Syd Taube. Reading from left to right around second table—Alf. Perry, Arthur Lee, Earl Lawson, Louis Rosenfeld, Herb Allen, Mrs. Moore, M. A. Schlesinger, Walter Kennedy, Harold Pfaff, and the men who ran the Rodeo, Jim Eskew, Junior Eskew, and Charles Mavety, "Pop" Phillips, Jim Boyd, Ed. Wells, George Beeston, D. J. Ongley, Haskell Masters, Clair Hague, Hal Hode, Ray Lewis, Fred Pursel and Leo Devaney.

Judge Finds Falk Attacked Ray Lewis Character and Credit

LIBEL CASE DISMISSED WITH COSTS

Mr. Justice McFarland, who dismissed the libel action of Stella Falk against Ray Lewis and The Canadian Moving Picture Digest, handed down his reasons for his judgment.

Mrs. Falk, who is the managing editor of The Canadian Independent, said among several other things in that paper that Ray Lewis was a "stooge" of N. L. Nathanson; and Ray Lewis in defending her standing in the Motion Picture Industry covering a period of a quarter of a century of Independent activities, called Mrs. Falk a liar.

Mrs. Falk brought a libel action against Ray Lewis and The Canadian Moving Picture Digest claiming Ten Thousand Dollars damages. The libel action was heard early last summer, trial proceeding before jury, but after evidence had been given by plaintiff and defendant, and evidence given by three witnesses for Mrs. Falk, His Lordship dismissed the action of the plaintiff with costs at the request of counsel for the defendant, based on a provision in law which gives a person the right to defend himself if attacked.

The written reasons for His Lordship's judgment are contained in the following report as published in The Toronto Daily Star as of Nov. 20th:

CALL 'STOUGE', 'LIAR' BUT FINDS NO MALICE

Justice Says Provocation Given by
Plaintiff—Dismisses Libel Action

Mr. Justice McFarland gave his reasons in a judgment delivered at Osgoode Hall today for taking the case of libel by Stella Falk against Ray Lewis Smith and the Canadian Moving Picture Digest from the jury and dismissing the action. He said he could find no evidence of malice on the part of the defendant. "It was simply a perfectly justifiable effort on her part to repel an attack which had been made on her character and reputation."

"A great deal of bitterness and rivalry," said Mr. Justice McFarland, "apparently has arisen between the parties, and the issues in the case arise from an article published by the plaintiff containing an attack on the defendant, Ray Lewis Smith, in which the statement was made that the defendant was a 'stooge of Nathanson.'"

"This article was answered by the defendant in the Canadian Moving Picture Digest in terms which the plaintiff claims are libellous. At the end of the taking of evidence counsel for the defendant moved for dismissal of the action, and after argument the motion was granted and the action dismissed. The defendant's motion was based on the ground that the occasion was privileged and that there was a common interest. In my opinion the

defendant's contention is sound.

"There is no doubt on the evidence that there was provocation given by plaintiff to defendant. In the article published by the plaintiff the character and credit of the defendant had been attacked, and she was in effect described to be a traitor to the cause which she espoused in connection with the moving picture industry. The word 'stooge' has acquired an approbrious signification, and when the plaintiff accused her of being 'away down at the bottom of the list of Nathanson stooges' she had a perfect right to repel that accusation.

"Boiled down to the essentials, the plaintiff said, 'You are a stooge of Nathanson,' and the defendant said, 'You are a liar.'"

HARPER TO KELOWNA

Trail, B.C. — Will Harper, manager of the Strand Theatre here, has been transferred to Kelowna, where he will take over the management of the Empress Theatre. Leslie Campbell, present manager of the Empress, will take over the management of the Strand.

NEW THEATRE

New Westminster, B.C. — A new theatre is reported planned for Haney, to be erected at a cost of \$30,000.

THEATRE BUSINESS IN ALBERTA IMPROVING

Lethbridge, Alta. — Despite the wheat quota, farmers are realizing a fair return for their crops, and business in southern Alberta is taking on a brisk appearance.

Some lines have been slow, but with the raising of the quota more new money has been put into circulation and this is now being felt in the retail and theatre businesses. With colder weather on the prairies, mines are working more steadily to take care of orders. This is helping the mine payroll, one of the chief sources of revenue for Lethbridge.

The sugar beet crop of 325,000 tons is also putting large sums in circulation. Recently well over a million dollars was distributed to 1,000 growers or more. Two sugar beet factories which employ between 500 and 600 men helps to put a lot of money in circulation and the additional purchasing power is felt by merchants and theatremen in Raymond, Picture Butte and Lethbridge.

Southwestern Alberta Teachers' Association Convention in Lethbridge recently had a pleasing effect on box-offices.

F.P. REMODELLING PROGRAM

Vancouver, B.C. — Famous Players will undertake a program of remodeling and renovating here shortly, according to Larry Bearg, F.P. manager here. The Orpheum Theatre will have new seats installed, the Alma Theatre will be enlarged, the Regent Theatre resealed and redecorated, and improvements will be made in the Windsor and Grandview Theatres.



Canadian Picture Pioneers photographed with the Rodeo star, Gene Autry, following their Banquet at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on November 13th: Reading front row from left to right—Fred Pursel, H. Rotenberg, Sam Bloom, Ray Lewis, Mrs. Hanson, Sam Glazer, Tom Daley, Gene Autry, Mrs. Autry, Charles Mavety, The Johnson Sisters, Harold Patte, Jake Smith, Mrs. Johnson, Clair Hague and Alf. Perry. At back from left to right—Mrs. Moore, Earl Lawson, Jule Allen, Abe Wilkes, Syd Taube, Oscar Hanson, Ernie Moule, Doug Cooper, Hal Hode, Jule Allen, Sam Brint, Harry Law, Ambrose Theurer, A. J. Mason, "Pop" Phillips, Bill Summerville, Archie Laurie and Harry Painter.

"Third Finger, Left Hand" Sophisticated Comedy "Brigham Young" Epic Film -- "Honeymoon" Good

"THIRD FINGER, LEFT HAND"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

EXHIBITORS and theatregoers who complained that in "I Love You Again", the feminine star, Myrna Loy, was just a stooge for William Powell, will be glad to know that she really has come into her own once more in Metro's latest, witty comedy, "Third Finger, Left Hand". In fact, she is the whole picture, with even her co-star, Melvyn Douglas, actually supporting her, rather than co-starring with her. However, the point is not worth quibbling about; the important thing is that "Third Finger, Left Hand" is a gay, bright comedy of the sophisticated school, containing a number of clever dialogue passages, some slightly suggestive sequences, and some darned good fun.

Miss Loy plays the role of editor of a magazine, a career woman. In order to offset the jealous suspicions of her employer's wife, Myrna pretends that she is married. In the meantime she meets Melvyn Douglas, a vagabond artist, and the two fall in love. When Douglas learns the truth about Myrna's "husband", he moves into her apartment, claiming to be the husband she had so often talked about. From then on it's more fun than a barrel of monkeys, as Myrna tries to protect her maidenly virtue from Douglas' husbandly affections.

The script is not the strongest, but thanks to the performances of the players, and to expert direction, it manages to hold together in satisfactory fashion. Robert Z. Leonard, who can always be depended upon to get the very most out of material on hand, deserves a great deal of credit for his work on this picture. More than any other person, his is the responsibility for its success. The original screenplay was by Lionel Houser.

Myrna Loy, enjoying her best break in several pictures, gives a swell performance all the way through. She handles lines as if she really relishes them, and she handles Melvyn Douglas as if that isn't too repulsive a task, either. As for Douglas he has yet to give a poor performance, and here, even though he "stooges" for Myrna, he is entertaining at all times. Others in the cast include Felix Bressart, Raymond Walburn, Lee Bowman, Bonita Granville, Ann Morriss, Donald Meek, Sidney Blackmer and Halliwell Hobbes.

Loew's, Toronto, advertised the picture as funnier than "I Love You Again".

Running time—96 minutes.

"BRIGHAM YOUNG"

20th CENTURY-FOX

DARRYL F. ZANUCK'S latest epic is doing very big business in the United States and not quite such big business in Canada, where the title character is not so well known, except as the husband of many wives. However, it is a BIG picture, and deserves your respect in every way, especially by way of special exploitation. It's fine entertainment, educational in the same way that all historical pictures are educational, factual where facts best serve the entertainment value of the picture, and fictional where a little embellishment on the facts, improve the plot.

What will surprise a great number of people is that Tyrone Power does NOT play the title role of "Brigham Young". The title role has been left to Dean Jagger to portray. The latter, unable to get very far in Hollywood several years ago, returned to the stage, and there met with considerable success. Indications after "Brigham Young" are that his stay in Hollywood will be of considerable duration. Tyrone Power and Linda Darnell provide the romantic interest in the film as followers of Young. They are given plenty of footage, but their roles are relatively unimportant compared with Jagger's.

Story tells of the great Mormon trek from Nauvoo, Ill., to Salt Lake City, Utah, which city they founded. It tells of persecution for religious belief, of the murder of the sects first leader, Joseph Smith, and of the hardships and adversities the caravan faced on its long journey. Of that first, bitter winter at Salt Lake, and as a climax, of the threatened destruction of the pilgrims' first crops by locusts, and their last minute saving by a flock of sea gulls, in what has always appeared to be a miracle from above.

Against this dramatic backdrop, move the large list of players, headed by Linda Darnell and Jagger, and followed by Mary Astor, Brian Donlevy, Jane Darwell, John Carradine, Vincent Price, Jean Roegrs, Ann Todd, and many more. Mary Astor is particularly impressive, as Brigham Young's first, and best loved wife.

The question of polygamy is deftly handled, so that there can be no moral objections to the picture. It is barely mentioned anywhere in the picture, and then only briefly.

Directed by Henry Hathaway.

Running time—112 minutes.

"HAUNTED HONEYMOON"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

ALMOST any list ever assembled by those who know, of the best mystery books ever published, will include at least one Lord Peter Wimsey story by Dorothy Sayers. Of all her books, "Busman's Holiday" must rank near the top. Its film version, for which the title was changed, is the fourth picture to be made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at its British studios, and while far from being as pretentious as the others, still, if properly handled, can make a mint of money for a good many theatres.

Cast is headed by Robert Montgomery, in the role of Lord Peter Wimsey, which seems to be tailor-made for him. Supporting him are a number of well known British players, including Leslie Banks, Robert Newton, Sir Seymour Hicks, and more familiar to American and Canadian audiences, Canadian-born Constance Cummings. The latter, absent from the American screen for some time, has been seen off and on in British films for two or three years now, and in addition made quite a name for herself on the stage in London. Both Banks and Newton will be remembered for their work with Charles Laughton in "Jamaica Inn".

Story is a light affair, full of witty dialogue, some fast action, and a fairly mystifying theme. Lord Peter and his bride (Constance Cummings) set out on their honeymoon, only to find themselves involved in a murder case, which they try to solve. The more they try, the more complicated it becomes, until it gets so bad that Wimsey himself is suspected of murder. Finally, in plausible and skillful fashion, the titled sleuth unravels the mystery, and the honeymooners are free to resume their interrupted bliss.

Montgomery does a grand job of the Lord Peter role. He has always been a favorite of ours, and this is one of his best roles. As for Miss Cummings, our only comment in regard to her, is a plea that she returns to America — if she has not already done so — for there should be plenty of work waiting for her right in Hollywood. Leslie Banks and Seymour Hicks lend splendid support to the two top stars, with their being very little to choose between them. The rest of the British cast is proportionately good, as in all English pictures, the smallest character actor or actress, handling his or her assignment with as much conscientious effort as if they were starred, Newton and Joan Kemp-Welch being stand-outs.

Running time—99 minutes.

"NWMP" BREAKS RECORDS

Saint John, N.B. — "North West Mounted Police" broke all house records at the Capitol Theatre, and this despite five and a half days of rain which the feature had to battle against. Nothing daunted the audiences who continued to line up in long queues, standing in the rain waiting to enter the show. The film showed for one week and was seen by 18,000 people.

Manager Walter Golding in his publicity, brought to the attention of St. John residents, that troops from this city had begun a march to aid those already quelling the Riel Rebellion. Scenes of farewell took place at the Barracks, but the soldiers only got as far as Sussex, N.B., when word came that Riel had been defeated. Walter Golding has a wide knowledge of these facts, for his father was a personal friend of the officer commanding those troops, the late Colonel Blaine.

LEASE GRIFFIN HOUSE

Toronto, Ont. — The old Chatham Theatre, Chatham, Ont., owned by the Griffin Theatres Ltd., has been leased to a company headed by Gordon D. Fairley, formerly of Hanson Theatre Corp., and Sterling Films Ltd.

Plans have been completed for rebuilding the theatre at a cost of approximately \$50,000. The theatre will be stadium type with a seating capacity of approximately 800. Morgan and Smith, Architects, will supervise the construction of the new theatre, to be named the "Imperial".

THEATRE MAN PASSES

Plaster Rock, N.B.—Donald Fraser, a prominent citizen of this town, and owner and operator of the Community Theatre, passed away suddenly while on a visit to Moncton.

RODEO NETS £5,000

Toronto, Ont. — Five thousand pounds has been sent to Sir William George Coxen, Lord Mayor of London, this being the amount raised through the Rodeo Show, held at the Coliseum, Toronto, November 14th, 15th, and 16th by the War Services Committee, sponsored by Canadian Picture Pioneers.

There were 23,500 paid admissions. The advertising in the Rodeo Program grossed \$3,000.00 and 7100 copies of the program were sold. Outstanding among the work which was done in connection with the Rodeo, was that of the London theatre managers, who through their association, raised a total of \$611 for the Lord Mayors' Fund for British War Relief, through private collections, and a concert which they ran at the Loew's Theatre.

"BICYCLING" FILM

Saint John, N.B. — "London Can Take It", the reel which Warner Bros. is distributing, with proceeds to go to British War Relief, was shown simultaneously at five theatres in Saint John, and for once no distributor is complaining about "bicycling" — for the prints are thus being passed from theatre to theatre. The reel is well featured in all the advertising.

UNITED AMUSEMENTS EARNINGS REPORTED UP

Montreal, Que. — United Amusement Corporation, operating 29 theatres in Montreal and other Quebec cities, reports that earnings are moderately better than at the same date for the same period last year. A program of modernization and renovation has been carried out during the past year.

POSTPONE CLEARANCE MEET

Toronto, Ont. — The meeting of the Clearance Reforms Committee to deal with the establishment of a National Clearance Board, and Provincial Boards, which was to take place on Tuesday, November 19th, has been postponed until Friday, November 29.

The resolution adopting the idea of establishing a National Clearance Board, and Provincial Boards, was passed last May, but to date plans have not been specified for putting this resolution into force.

There has been some discussion in connection with the situation in Nova Scotia, should the Clearance Committee seek to establish a Clearance Board there. The present Conciliation Board in Nova Scotia, under the Chairmanship of A. J. Mason, is working so successfully that the Nova Scotia exhibitors would not wish to disturb the present set-up. However, it is interesting to note that there is a clause in the provisions, as passed by the Clearance Committee last May, which states: "If the present Conciliation Board in Nova Scotia desires to act as local Clearance Board, then there may be a local Board established in New Brunswick to deal with clearances in New Brunswick and P.E.I."

UNIQUE AD ANGLE

Edmonton, Alta. — Unique advertisement published in Edmonton newspapers by the Capitol Theatre for "North West Mounted Police" pointed out that up to the time of the appearance of the ad — two days before the show's final run — over 26 miles of people had viewed the picture at that theatre if all the patrons were placed in single file.

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

"IN conclusion there is one thing I would like to convey to the Motion Picture Industry of Canada. We are grateful for your practical sympathy. The Industry here is definitely playing its part as every other Industry in fighting the battle of democracy. We would like as much help as could be given in the shape of screening our films in your theatres, showing as many news reels as possible, and some of the Ministry of Information shorts, of which quite a number are particularly worth while.

"And finally, we have every confidence in our ultimate victory. The days looks dark, they may even become darker, but we are utterly and completely convinced that brighter days are ahead; and come the spring of 1941, and maybe even sooner, and the world will know that Britain stands for the freedom of all men and that these tin-pot Dictators will be getting a licking, then they'll be glad to squeal for help.

"And with that final victory, which will only be won with the help of Britain's Dominions and, perhaps, we hope, with the help of America, the Motion Picture Industry will play its part in helping to keep the money in circulation which

is necessary to win wars, and in keeping the people entertained in their dark and dreary hours.

"My salutations and all good wishes to you. With kindest regards, believe me, sincerely yours, Ernest Fredman."

You will agree with me that Ernest Fredman shows the stuff that Britishers are made of when he takes the time which this letter required to write it. We agree with you, Ernest Fredman, that we will win; and we assure you that the Canadian Motion Picture War Services will continue to give you the concrete, practical assistance which it has given you.

